

PROJECT CENSORED

THE MOST UNDER-COVERED NEWS IN AMERICA

According to the Project Censored voting team, these are last year's top 25 news stories which should have been reported by the media in a big way, but weren't.

Sonoma State University's Project Censored has released its latest list of the top 25 most under-covered news stories in the United States—as it has been doing for the past 24 years. Media students and staff screened several thousand stories from late 1998 through 1999, and selected 500 to be evaluated by faculty and community experts. The top 200 stories were then researched for national mainstream coverage by the Media Censorship class, and a final collective vote of all students, staff and faculty was taken in early November 1999. Lastly, the top 25 stories were ranked by Project Censored's national judges.

1. Multinational Corporations Profit from International Brutality

In the name of commerce, huge multinational corporations collaborate with repressive governments and, in the process, support significant human rights violations. Corporations often argue that their presence and investment will improve human rights. This practice is referred to as "constructive engagement".

Major international energy corporations such as Mobil, Exxon, Enron and Unocal have engaged in major business ventures in countries known as major human rights violators. Major US governmental grants, as well as corporate capital investment, have funded the suppression of media, political opposition and personal rights in Turkmenistan, India and Burma. The myth of "constructive engagement" has failed to improve human rights, and yet has been endorsed both by international corporations and the US Government.

Since the release of this information, BP-Amoco and Statoil have taken positive steps towards addressing human rights issues. Programs are being developed in the US and abroad to deal with the conduct of energy companies globally.

Source: Arvind Ganesan (ganessa@hrw.org), "Corporation Crackdowns: Business Backs Brutality", Dollars and Sense, May/June 1999.

2. Pharmaceutical Companies Put Profits Before Need

Multinational pharmaceutical companies focus their research and development on high-profile, profit-making drugs like Viagra instead of developing cures for life-threatening diseases in poorer countries. Viagra earned more than one billion dollars in its first year, for instance. Though representatives of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America claim that some funds are directed towards eliminating tropical diseases, neither they nor individual firms are willing to provide statistics.

Research into Third World tropical diseases is not being extensively considered or produced. A recent and effective medicine for African sleeping sickness was pulled from production, while older remedies are no longer available because they are not needed in the US. AIDS continues to receive the most attention in the Third World, mainly because the disease also remains a threat to the First World.

Since the release of this story, Doctors Without Borders won the Nobel Prize and announced an international campaign to increase access to key drugs.

Source: Ken Silverstein (ksilverstein@erols.com), "Millions for Viagra, Pennies for the Poor", The Nation, 19 July 1999.

3. Financially Bloated American Cancer Society Fails to Prevent Cancer

The American Cancer Society (ACS) is growing increasingly wealthy, thanks to donations from the public and funding from surgeons, drug companies and corporations that profit from cancer cures. More than half the funds raised by the ACS go to overheads, salaries and fringe benefits for its executives and other employees, while most direct

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community services are handled by unpaid volunteers. The value of cash reserves and real estate totals over US\$1 billion, yet only 16 per cent of funds go into direct services for cancer victims.

Conflicts of interest affect ACS's approach to cancer prevention. With a philosophy that emphasises faulty lifestyles rather than environmental hazards, the ACS has refused to provide scientific testimony needed for the regulation of occupational and environmental carcinogens. The Board of Trustees includes corporate executives from industries with a vested interest in manufacturing both environmental carcinogens and anti-cancer drugs.

Source: Samuel S. Epstein (epstein@uic.edu), "American Cancer Society: The World's Wealthiest 'Non-profit' Institution", *International Journal of Health Services*, vol. 29, no. 3, 1999.

4. American Sweatshops Sew US Military Uniforms

The US Department of Defense (DoD) has \$1 billion invested in the garment industry, making it the country's 14th largest retail apparel outlet. Lion Apparel contracts with the DoD to produce military uniforms, yet the company's workplace conditions are dismal and remain virtually unregulated by the US Government. Lion employees are mostly women who are paid as little as \$5.50 per hour. According to records obtained by *Mother Jones* through a Freedom of Information request, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited Lion Apparel 32 times for safety and health violations in the past 12 years. Employees in a Kentucky plant are subjected to formaldehyde fumes that cause shortness of breath, headaches and skin rashes.

Efforts to unionise workers have failed because, union leaders claim, the company managed to evade a federal law prohibiting the threat of plant closures. The military continues to refuse to sign the garment industry's anti-sweatshop code of conduct.

Despite the coverage provided by this article, the author estimates that there are still 10,000 American women sewing government uniforms, often in unsanitary, unsafe conditions.

Source: Mark Boal, "An American Sweatshop", *Mother Jones*, May/June 1999.

5. Turkey Destroys Kurdish Villages with US Weapons

In 1995, the Clinton Administration recognised that the Turkish Government used American arms in domestic military operations where human rights abuses occurred. In fact, Turkey has forcibly evacuated, levelled and burned more than 3,000 Kurdish villages in the past decade. Most of the atrocities, which have cost over 40,000 lives, took place during Clinton's first term in office.

As an ally of the US through NATO, Turkey receives US weapons from dozens of companies including Hughes, Boeing, Raytheon and General Dynamics. Despite a horrifying Amnesty International report on violent abuse, the State Department passed arms deals with Turkey. The war in Turkey represents the greatest use of US weapons in combat anywhere in the world today.

Source: Kevin McKeirnan (kevinmck@silcom.com), *The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, March/April 1999.

6. NATO Defends Private Economic Interests in the Balkans

As a result of NATO's success in the military conflicts of Bosnia and Kosovo, NATO's member nations have been provided with the political and economic opportunities to partake in the exploitation of the significant mineral resources in the Balkans.

In addition, Western multinational corporations are now well positioned to access the lucrative oil refining industry needed at a terminal end of the pipeline, as per the agreement which was formally signed last November by President Clinton and the presidents of four key Caspian-region nations. The proposed pipeline routes will divert oil and gas from the Caspian Sea area to either Mediterranean or Eastern European terminals for export to the Western nations, thus avoiding the competing interests of either Russia or Iran.

Successful re-establishment of NATO's military presence in the Balkans has made real the goal of a leaked 1992 document of a Pentagon plan to preserve NATO as the primary instrument for Western security interests as well as the channel for US influence and participation in European affairs.

Sources: Diana Johnstone (107764.116@compuserve.com), "The Role of Caspian Sea Oil in the Balkan Conflict", *Women Against Military Madness*, November 1998, and *Sonoma County Peace Press*, April/May 1999; Sara Flounders (iacenter@iacenter.org), "Kosovo: It's About the Mines", *Because People Matter*, May/June 1999, reprinted from *Workers World*, 30 July 1998; Pratap Chatterjee (pchatterjee@igc.org), "Caspian Pipe Dreams", *The San Francisco Bay Guardian*, 16 December 1999.

7. US Media Reduce Foreign Coverage

Coverage of foreign news by the US media industry reflects a continuing downward trend, despite evidence that the American public wants more international information.

Pollsters reveal that most Americans rely on television for national and international news. Unfortunately, major network coverage of foreign news is currently seven to 12 per cent and dropping—a sharp contrast to the at least 40

per cent coverage during the heydays of Cronkite, Chancellor and Reynolds.

Coverage in print media is also down in large metro-area news markets. An example is the drop in coverage by the *Indianapolis Star* from 5,100 column inches within a 30-day period in November 1977 to 1,170 column inches in 1997—a 23 per cent drop over those two decades.

Despite a critical examination by the Project for Excellence in Journalism and the continued campaign of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, major market editors seem to continue to focus on the production of a media diet of crime news, celebrity gossip and soft features in an effort to gain more market share and an increase in profit margins.

Source: Peter Arnett (parnett348@aol), "Good-bye World", *American Journalism Review*, November 1998.

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8. Planned "Star Wars" Weapons in Space Violate International Treaty

The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 bans the deployment of space weapons of mass destruction. Recently, US Congress ignored the further need for such a treaty and approved the development of the US Military's Space Command Weapons program. This sudden shift of viewpoint coincides with the complete absence of any foreign government competition, and with the increase in the ability of the US to use satellite surveillance effectively in military campaigns. The proposed system is designed to extend control of space far beyond the outer boundaries of the Earth's atmosphere. To prevent deployment of any adversarial country's satellites, the Pentagon is well along in its research and development of an anti-satellite weapons program.

The re-emergence of a "Star Wars" weapon system is echoed in the words of General Joseph Ashly, Commander-in-Chief of the US Space Command: "It's politically sensitive but it's going to happen...we are going to fight from space and we are going to fight into space."

Concerned with the possibility of nuclear contamination of the atmosphere from satellite break-up, the European Space Agency has urged the US to utilise solar power to fuel military space command modules.

Sources: Karl Grossman (kgrossman@hamptons.com), "US Violates World Law to Militarize Space", Earth Island Journal, Winter/Spring 1999; Bruce K. Gagnon (globalnet@mindspring.com), "Pyramids to the Heavens", Toward Freedom, September/October 1999.

9. Louisiana Promotes Toxic Racism

Contained within the boundaries of a 100-mile [161-km] stretch of land between Baton Rouge and New Orleans are seven oil refineries and 175 heavy industrial plants. The area is locally called "Cancer Alley". The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that the majority of the 23 million pounds of toxic waste released into the air are in two zip-code areas, primarily inhabited by African-Americans.

A 1992 *National Law Journal* investigation found that even when the government enforces the environmental regulations against companies in violation, the fines levied in these areas are significantly lower than those levied in white communities.

Prompted by an increase in public awareness, President Clinton signed an executive order in 1993 to open an investigation into the impact of the petrochemical industry's practices in these communities of colour.

Despite the rhetoric, little has changed amongst the targeted communities. On the contrary, the State of Louisiana has run full-page promotional ads in the *Wall Street Journal*, promising significant incentives for large corporate industries to relocate to the state, and touting the state's passage of tort reform legislation that limits the liability of companies which lose negligence suits and restricts the ability of citizens to file claims against "these protected companies".

Source: Ron Nixon (ronn@roanoke.com), "Toxic Gumbo", Southern Exposure, Summer/Fall 1998.

10. The US and NATO Deliberately Started the War with Yugoslavia

The US and NATO pushed for war with Yugoslavia by demanding full military occupation of the entire country as a condition of not bombing. Belgrade could not accept the US-drafted two-part Rambouillet ultimatum, not only because it was a thinly veiled plan to detach Kosovo from Serbia, but also because it contained provisions even worse than loss of that historic province—provisions no sovereign country in the world could possibly accept. Unreported in the mainstream media was the fact that when Serbia rejected the treaty it also passed a resolution declaring its willingness to negotiate Kosovo's self-management.

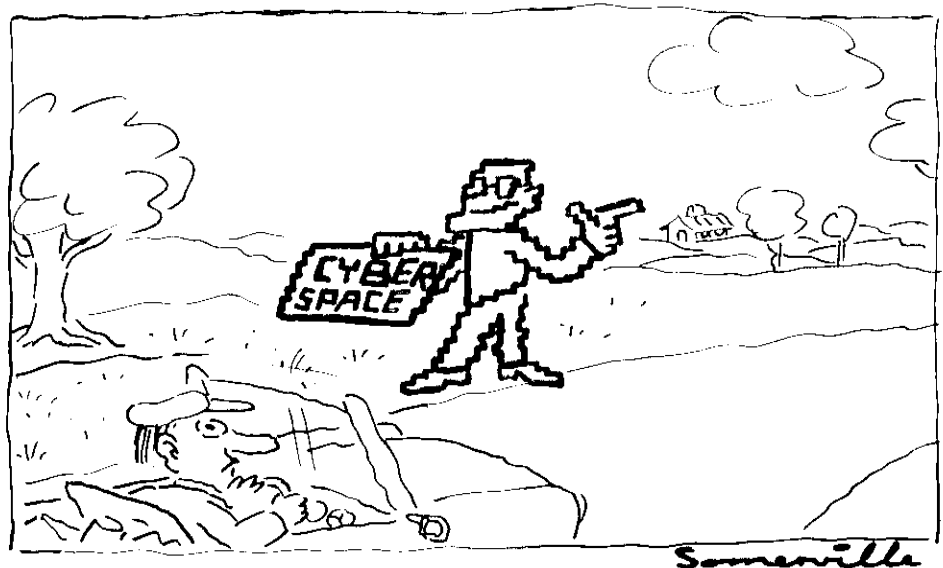
For months, the Serbian Government offered to negotiate. High-level government teams made many trips to Pristina to hold talks with Ibrahim Rugova and other non-violent ethnic Albanians. The Albanians refused to negotiate, for fear of going against the rising rebel movement, the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), which was hostile to any compromise and ready to assassinate "traitors" who dealt with Serbs.

Sources: Jason Vest (ashenden6@aol.com), "The Real Rambouillet", The Village Voice, 18 May 1999; Seth Ackerman, "Redefining Diplomacy", Extra, July/August 1999 and "What Was the War For?", In These Times, 8 August 1999; Diana Johnstone (107764.116@compuserve.com), "Hawks and Eagles: 'Greater NATO' flies to Aid of 'Greater Albania'", Covert Action Quarterly, Spring-Summer 1999; Amy Goodman (host), Democracy Now, Pacifica Radio Network, 23 April 1999, www.Pacifica.org.

11. America's Largest Nuclear Test Exposed Thousands

Thirty years ago, Amchitka, Alaska, was the site of three large underground nuclear tests, including the most powerful nuclear explosion ever detonated by the United States. Despite claims by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the Pentagon that the test sites would safely contain the radiation released by the blasts for thousands of years, independent research by Greenpeace and newly released documents from the Department of Energy (DoE) show that the Amchitka tests began to leak almost immediately.

The blast ruptured the crust of the earth, sucking a creek into a brand new aquifer—a radioactive one. Highly radioactive elements and gases poured out of the collapsed test shafts, leached into the groundwater and worked their way into ponds, creeks and the Bering Sea.



Sources: Alexander Cockburn (alexandercockburn@asis.com) and Jeffrey St Clair (sitka@home.com), "Aftermath of Amchitka", Counterpunch, Summer 1999, Terrain, Fall 1999; Jeffrey St Clair, "Thirty Years After: The Legacy of America's Largest Nuclear Test", In These Times, 8 August 1999.

12. Evidence Indicates No Pre-War Genocide in Kosovo and Possible US/KLA Disinformation Plot

According to the *New York Times*, the "turning point" in NATO's decision to wage war on Yugoslavia occurred on 20 January 1999, when US diplomat William Walker led a group of news reporters to discover a so-called Serb massacre of some 45 Albanians in Racak, Kosovo. This story made international headlines and was later used to justify the NATO bombings.

The day before the "massacre", Serb police had a firefight with KLA rebels that was covered by an AP film crew. At the end of day, the village was deserted. William Walker arrived at noon with additional journalists and expressed his outrage at a "genocidal massacre" to the world press.

Walker's story remains shrouded with doubt. "What is disturbing," remarked war correspondent Renaud Girard, "is that the pictures filmed by the AP journalists radically contradict Walker's accusations." Belorussian and Finnish forensic experts were later unable to verify that a massacre had actually occurred at Racak.

Sources: Mark Cook (dejsaba@aol.com), "William Walker: 'Man with a Mission'", Covert Action Quarterly, Spring/Summer 1999; Sam Smith (news@prorev.com), "My Multinational Entity, Right or Wrong", The Progressive Review, June 1999; Pablo Ordaz, "Spanish police and forensic experts have not found proof of genocide in the north of Kosovo", El Pais, 23 September 1999.

13. US Agency Seeks to Export Weapons-Grade Plutonium to Russian Organisation with Crime Links

The Washington-based Non-Proliferation Trust (NPT) proposes that the US sell nuclear waste to Russia. NPT's plan would make Russia the world's dumping ground for nuclear waste, including weapons-grade plutonium. NPT's partner in this endeavour is MinAtom, Russia's Ministry of Atomic Energy.

NPT is headed up by Daniel Murphy (former Deputy Director of the CIA), Bruce Demars (former head of the US Navy's nuclear program) and William Webster (former Director of the CIA and FBI). Although NPT is set up as a non-profit organisation, its principals stand to make huge profits from consulting and subcontracting. On the list of potential subcontractors is Halter Marine, in Gulfport, Mississippi—a company to which US Senator Trent Lott has close links.

Yevgeny Adamov, the head of MinAtom, estimates that the operation could produce US\$150 billion in revenue, making it the most lucrative operation in Russia. MinAtom is also alleged to have links to corrupt government officials and the Russian Mob.

Sources: Jeffrey St Clair (sitka@home.com), "Hot Property, Cold Cash: The Plan to Turn Russia into the World's Nuclear Waste Dump", In These Times, 17 October 1999; Jeffrey St Clair and Alexander Cockburn (alexandercockburn@asis.com), "The MinAtom Conspiracy", Counterpunch, vol. 6, no. 16, 16–30 September 1999.

14. US Media Ignores Humanitarian Aspects of Famine in North Korea

As a food crisis of staggering proportions develops in North Korea, the US media are focusing on the threat posed by North Korea's continuation of nuclear testing. US media have used the North Korean famine for political propaganda and have failed to cover the huge disaster from an humanitarian perspective. Nowhere is there an outcry like the one developed by media worldwide for Ethiopia.

The German Red Cross estimated there were two million deaths in 1997 due to starvation; the South Korean Buddhists Sharing Movement reported an estimated three million deaths; and the New York Council of Foreign Affairs reported an estimate of one million North Korean deaths due to famine.

Source: Yuh Ji-Yeon (j-yuk@nwu.edu), "Dangerous Communists, Inscrutable Orientals, Starving Masses", Peace Review, June 1999.

15. Early Puberty in Girls may be Linked to Chemicals in the Environment and Increases in Breast Cancer

Endocrine disrupters may be responsible for young girls maturing faster, thus creating an increased risk of breast cancer. A University of North Carolina cross-sectional study of girls between the ages of three to 12 years, found that girls are developing pubertal characteristics at younger ages than is suggested by standard paediatrics textbooks.

The study found that, on average, African-American girls begin puberty between eight and nine years of age, and white girls by 10 years of age, which is six months to a year sooner than previous data suggests. Although it is unclear what is causing this early onset of puberty, environmental exposures have been implicated.

Breast cancer risks include the early onset of puberty that is brought on by the release of natural oestrogens in the body. Women who go through puberty early

have longer exposure to these oestrogens and therefore may be at greater risk of developing breast cancer.

Sources: Marcia E. Herman-Giddens, Eric J. Slora, Richard Wasserman, Carlos Bourdony, Manju V. Bhapkar, Fary Koch, Cynthia Hasemeier, "Secondary Sexual Characteristics and Menses in Young Girls Seen in Office Practice: A Study from the Pediatric Research in Office Settings Network", Pediatrics, vol. 11, no. 3, December 1998.

16. Media Distort Debate on Affirmative Action

The US media oversimplified the debate on affirmative action and deliberately misled the American public. Media coverage at the national level presented the controversy as a conflict primarily between African-Americans and whites, minimising the place of Latinos and Asian-Americans in the affirmative action debate.

In 1995, headlines, visuals, highlighted quotes and storyline emphasis demonstrated unavoidable conflict of interest between Whites and Blacks. The media portrayed African-Americans purportedly gaining at the direct expense of whites. The continued use of the buzzword "preferences", in conjunction with affirmative action, intensified the emotional context of the issue. The news reinforced racial antagonism, while perpetuating the idea

The so-called Serb massacre of some 45 Albanians in Racak, Kosovo, which made international headlines and was later used to justify the NATO bombings, is now classed as part of a US disinformation campaign.

that the White majority is fed up with affirmative action. This false perception may have discouraged White politicians who might otherwise have defended the policy. Since the media have made affirmative action an issue concerning only Blacks and Whites, Latinos and Asians have been left in peripheral positions and women and Native Americans barely register on the radar screen.

Sources: Robert Entman (entmen@ncsu.edu), "The Color Game: How Media Plays the Race Card", News Watch, Summer 1999; Linda Jue, "It is the Nuances, Stupid", News Watch, Summer 1999.

17. World Bank's Resettlement Programs Displace Millions of People

The World Bank funds large dam-building projects, but does little to help the displaced millions who are forced to relocate. A recent report by the World Bank's Operations Evaluation Department (OED) shows the Bank's failure to implement its own resettlement policy. The most recent data available indicates that 1.9 million people are being displaced by projects in the Bank's current portfolio, and that these numbers are continuing to grow.

One of the biggest concerns aroused by the authors of the OED report is the Bank's inability to restore the incomes of those resettled. The report recommends that the Bank move away from its policy of offering replacement land for land lost to a project. "In reality, resettlers lose the best land in the area—river valley land—and it's replaced with the most awful land around, because that is what is left."

Source: Lori Pottinger (lori@irn.org), "World Bank's Record on Resettlement Remains Troublesome", World Rivers Review, December 1998.

18. Minors in California are being Tried as Adults in the Criminal Justice System

It is unclear how many minors are getting bumped into the "big leagues" via fitness hearings which determine whether they should be tried as adults. Due to the lack of a tracking system, there is no way to determine where these minors are ending up, or if trying minors as adults is an effective deterrent or rehabilitation method. Research shows that 80 to 90 per cent of juveniles who did undergo fitness hearings ended up in adult court.

In 1994, two California State Assembly members "courting tough-on-crime votes revamped section 707 of the penal code, making it easier to try teens accused of serious offenses in the adult system".

Paul S. D. Berg, PhD, a forensic pathologist who has testified in three or four dozen fitness hearings, stated: "The only cases that end up in these hearings are serious cases, so the criterion is met by definition."

Source: A. Clay Thompson (ac_thompson@sfbg.com), "The Lost Boys: California is trying kids as adults—and locking them up for life. No one knows how many", The San Francisco Bay Guardian, 27 January 1999.

19. Cow's Milk Bacterium May Cause Crohn's Disease

Research points to a possible connection between gastrointestinal Crohn's disease and the milk we drink. Four studies show that the bacterium *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*, which is found in the almost identical Johne's disease in cattle, survives the pasteurisation process and can infect us through the dairy products we consume. This disease has already infected between 500,000 and one million people in the US alone, and approximately 55 Americans are newly diagnosed each day. At least half of these victims will have an inflamed intestine surgically removed.

Both medical and veterinary researchers agree that there is cause for concern and great need for further investigations, yet neither the government nor the dairy industry is willing to touch the issue. Forty-five per cent of dairy producers are either unaware of the disease or know very little about it, despite the fact that the dairy industry is losing US\$1.5 billion a year from animals lethally infected with Johne's disease.

Source: Lisa Chamberlain (lchamberlain@freetimes.com), "The Crohn's Connection?", Cleveland Free Times, 16–22 June 1999.

20. IMF and World Bank Contributed to Economic Tensions in the Balkans

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank were leading contributors to economic tensions in the Balkans that stimulated the break-up of Yugoslavia. Declassified documents from 1984 reveal that a US National Security directive, entitled "United States Policy Towards Yugoslavia", set a policy for destabilising the Yugoslavian Government.

In the early 1980s, the World Bank and IMF provided loans to the former Yugoslavia supposedly to "fix" the economic hardship of the region. The loans from these two organisations included mandated macroeconomic restructuring that, rather than helping, in fact destroyed the industrial sector and dismantled the welfare state. In 1990, the IMF and the World Bank delivered a new "financial aid package" that required new and extensive expenditure cuts by the federal government. The IMF and World Bank involvement led to the impoverishment of the population, which in turn led to hatred, confusion and divisiveness.

Source: Michael Chossudovsky, "Banking on the Balkans", THIS, July/August 1999.

21. The Vatican's UN Status Challenged

A special delegation to the Vatican (the Holy See) holds a position in the United Nations that is more powerful than any other non-governmental organisation (NGO), enjoying the same status as politically neutral Switzerland.

The Holy See claims to be the representative of "the entire people of God", and promotes its agenda by threatening to "pull out" any of the 300,000 health care facilities it owns worldwide, if the UN should attempt to force any of those facilities to provide abortion or contraception services. This threat creates a hostage situation for poorer countries that are reliant on the Church for poverty relief and basic health care.

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The See Change Campaign was launched to challenge the Vatican's power. Frances Kissling, president of Catholics for a Free Choice, asks: "Why should an entity that is in essence 100 square acres of office space and tourist attractions in the middle of Rome, with a citizenry that excludes women and children, have a place at the table where governments set policies? If the Vatican is a state," she says, "then EuroDisney deserves a place on the Security Council."

The Church's opposition prevented UN peacekeepers from distributing RU486 to rape victims in Kosovo.

Source: *Laura Flanders (Lflanders@aol.com), "Giving the Vatican the Boot", Ms. Magazine, October/November 1999.*

22. US and Germany Trained and Developed the Kosovo Liberation Army

Since the early 1990s, Germany and the USA have collaborated in supporting the development and training of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) deliberately to destabilise a centralised socialist government in Yugoslavia. Undercover support of Kosovo's rebel army was established as a joint endeavour between the CIA and Germany's Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND).

Since the mid-1990s, there has been a handful of Pentagon contractors or private military companies providing support to the KLA. One of these contractors is Military Professional Resources, Inc. (MPRI), which employs more than 400 personnel and can access the résumés of thousands of former US military specialists.

There has also been a blurring of law enforcement and military activities by companies like Dyncorp and Science Application International Corporation (SAIC). One of Dyncorp's UN police monitors was wounded by pro-Indonesian East Timorese militiamen in the post-referendum violence that swept the territory. Others, providing police services in NATO-occupied Kosovo, were attacked by both Serbian and Albanian militia groups.

Source: *Wayne Madsen (wmadsen777@aol.com), "Mercenaries in Kosovo: The US Connection to the KLA", The Progressive, August 1999.*

23. International Conference Sets World Agenda for Peace

The Hague Appeal for Peace (HAP) Conference, which took place in The Netherlands in May 1999, set a "Global Agenda" for world peace in the 21st century. Ten thousand peace activists, Nobel Peace Prize winners and celebrities from a hundred different countries met for four days in to voice their suggestions on how to make international peace possible.

One campaign launched at the conference was the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), which will encourage tracking, protesting and publicising the sales and shipments of weapons. Referring to the fact that the United States sold \$119 billion in arms (some 45 per cent of the world's total) from 1989 to 1996, Pierre Sane of Amnesty International stated at the conference that the US is "becoming the arsenal of the world".

The Hague Global Agenda calls for recognition and enforcement of World Court rulings that over 150 countries have endorsed. The United States has been unwilling to submit to the international jurisdiction of the World Court.

A long-term project put in motion at the conference is Global Action to Prevent War. Its purpose is to establish a coalition of organisations that will build a permanent body of NGOs, individuals and, eventually, governments to support world peace.

Source: *Robin Lloyd (tfmag@aol.com), "United for Peace", Toward Freedom, July 1999.*

24. US Nuclear Weapons Controlled by Mentally Unstable Personnel

Mentally unstable individuals may be in control of US nuclear devices. A screening process called the Personnel Reliability Program (PRP), set in place after a near-disaster in 1959, is supposed to guarantee that only competent, stable and dependable individuals have access to America's nuclear arsenal.

PRP is a two-step process consisting of an initial screening and post-approval monitoring. Screening includes a cursory medical evaluation, review of the candidate's personnel file and a background check of professional, educational and personal histories. However, no routine psychological testing is done, and an expelled PRP Marine has claimed that heavy drinking and depression are overlooked. In certain cases, individuals still had their PRP clearance while in prison on a felony conviction. In several cases, PRP-certified people have gone on to commit suicide or murder, assault, rape and other serious crimes, exposing unstable mental conditions in their past and present.

Source: *Ken Silverstein (ksilverstein@erols.com), "Positive Attitude Toward Nuclear Weapons Duty", Mother Jones, November 1998.*

25. US Military Trains Soldiers to Hunt, Kill and Eat Tame Animals

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) estimates that more than 10,000 animals, including chickens,

rabbits and goats, are used each year at military installations around the country in military training classes.

"Survival Skills" teaches soldiers to hunt, kill, cook and eat the tame animals.

Transported to training grounds by truck, the soldiers stage an ambush of an animal-laden vehicle, and release, chase, capture and kill the animals. They are "required to stroke the rabbit to calm it, then bash it on the head—and the rabbits don't always die with the first blow".

Two Air Force bases alone used more than 1,500 rabbits each year at a cost of more than \$10,000, and, according to a 1997 Department of Defense report, the Air Force kills more rabbits in survival skills courses than does the DoD in all its intramural research facilities combined.

Source: *D'Arcy Kemnitz (darcy@wildlifeAdvocacy.org), "Irrational Rations: Animals Used in Military Training", The Animals' Agenda, July/August 1999.*

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